

December 2003  
CENTRAL COMMAND

# SAFESTAT REPORT



*Nevada Highway Patrol*  
Major Rick Bradley

## Overview

December brought several winter storms to the area that hampered vehicular travel throughout the Command. Highway restrictions were in effect for 21 days throughout the month which was a 50% increase over November. The severe weather conditions resulted in an increase in crashes investigated and calls for service, keeping all personnel extremely busy during the month. Weather related crashes increased by 109% over November or 46 more crashes were investigated. Time spent on calls for service (motorist assist) was up 22% and the number of calls for service increased by 38% when compared to November. These factors combined with an 81% increase in leave usage and an 85% increase in training resulted in a 26% decline in the overall activity of the Command when compared to November.

Total crashes increased in the Command, with personnel investigating 143 crashes as compared to 135 being investigated the previous month for a 5.9% increase. This increase also holds true when compared to the same month the previous year. 121 crashes were investigated in December of 2002 compared to 143 being investigated in December of 2003 for an 18.2% increase. The Command has not experienced this type of weather pattern the past several years so these trends are expected to continue if the severe weather conditions continue.

As discussed previously, total enforcement decreased by 26% when compared to November with all categories showing a decline. This decline is directly related to the severe weather and hazardous road conditions the Central Command experienced throughout the month. The Commercial Enforcement Section's efforts were also hampered by the weather; however, the Command is still on track to meet its Federal and State goals. The most alarming decline for Commercial enforcement occurred in the total trucks weighed category. Only 4 trucks were weighed in December compared to 234 being weighed in November for a 98.3% decrease. This issue has been addressed with the appropriate personnel and an immediate improvement is expected.

Despite the inclement weather and hazardous driving conditions experienced throughout the Command our personnel remain focused and dedicated to improving highway safety on our roadways.

### Content:

- Crash Analysis
- Field Enforcement
- Staffing Hours
- Ratios
- Admin Report
- Communications
- Personnel
- Public Information
- Accomplishments
- Projects
- Upcoming Events

January 7, 2004

CENTRAL COMMAND

## CRASH ANALYSIS AND OVERVIEW

	December-03		December-02	% Change		November-03	% Change
Total Crashes	143		121	18.2%		135	5.9%
Property Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	100		86	16.3%		106	-5.7%
Injury Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	39		29	34.5%		27	44.4%
Fatal Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	4		6	-33.3%		2	100.0%
DUI Crashes [DUI charged]	3		5	-40.0%		6	-50.0%
Total persons killed in fatal crashes	7		6	16.7%		2	250.0%
Total drivers killed without seatbelts	2		3	-33.3%		1	100.0%
Total passengers killed without seatbelts	2		2	0.0%		0	200.0%
Total drivers killed with seatbelts	1		0	100.0%		1	0.0%
Total passengers killed with seatbelts	2		1	100.0%		0	200.0%
Total persons killed -- seatbelts not applicable	0		0	0.0%		0	0.0%
Total number of commercial vehicle crashes	16		9	77.8%		21	-23.8%
Property crashes involving commercial vehicle	11		6	83.3%		14	-21.4%
Injury crashes involving commercial vehicle	4		3	33.3%		6	-33.3%
Fatal crashes involving commercial vehicle	1		0	100.0%		1	0.0%

Percentage of fatal crashes to total crashes 2.8%

Percentage of DUI crashes to total crashes 2.1%

Percentage of persons killed *without* seatbelts to total persons killed 57.1%

Percentage of commercial vehicle crashes to total crashes 11.2%

### NARRATIVE ANALYSIS

[Narrative analysis to include trends or other applicable issues]

During December, the Central Command investigated 8 more crashes than in November for a 6% increase. When compared to December 2002, there was an 18% increase or 22 crashes. Numerous winter storms created hazardous driving conditions which resulted in an increase in weather related crashes throughout the Command. Weather related crashes increased 109% from November when compared to the total crashes for the month. In November there were only 38 (28.1%) weather related crashes with 84 (58.7%) in December.

Fatal crashes increased from 2 in November to 4 in December. Two of the fatal crashes were weather related. Four persons killed were not wearing seat belts.

There were 3 alcohol related crashes in December, down 2 when compared to November. The average BAC was .159 for those tests in which the results have returned.

Commercial vehicles involved in crashes declined by almost 24% when compared to November. Commercial vehicles were involved in 11% of the total crashes. This is one of the lowest percentages for the year and well below previous levels which were as high as 24%.

## FIELD ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

[Narrative analysis to include trends or other applicable issues]

	December-03		December-02	% Change		November-03	% Change
DUI arrests from crashes	3		3	0.0%		6	-50.0%
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes	9		18	-50.0%		13	-30.8%
Other Arrests	41		81	-49.4%		89	-53.9%
Total persons arrested (DUI included)	28		39	-28.2%		56	-50.0%
Speed violations	1211		1449	-16.4%		1581	-23.4%
Hazardous moving violations	212		163	30.1%		246	-13.8%
Occupant restraint violations	150		135	11.1%		253	-40.7%
Total violations [above violations included]	2086		2409	-13.4%		2821	-26.1%
<b>Commercial Enforcement</b>							
Hazardous moving violations - citations/arrests	11		22	-50.0%		35	-68.6%
Other traffic violations - citations/arrests	7		23	-69.6%		12	-41.7%
Total safety inspections [level 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6]	460		194	137.1%		671	-31.4%
Terminal inspections [level 5]	0		17	-1700.0%		0	0.0%
Total safety violations -- citation	89		115	-22.6%		105	-15.2%
Total safety violations -- repair order	675		694	-2.7%		1059	-36.3%
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"	30		54	-44.4%		51	-41.2%
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"	26		14	85.7%		28	-7.1%
Total school buses inspected	53		25	112.0%		47	12.8%
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"	15		0	1500.0%		11	36.4%
Total trucks weighed	4		215	-98.1%		234	-98.3%
Total overweight citations	0		12	-1200.0%		1	-100.0%
Total dyed fuel inspections	430		89	383.1%		637	-32.5%
Total dyed fuel citations	0		1	-100.0%		0	0.0%

## NARRATIVE ANALYSIS

[Narrative analysis to include trends or other applicable issues]

December reflected a decrease in overall activity by 26% when compared to November. All categories had a decline. This is due to numerous severe winter storms the last week of the month. These created hazardous driving conditions across the Command which, in turn, impacted enforcement activity. Highway travel restrictions increased 50% from November. Highway restrictions were in effect for 21 days during December. Weather related crashes increased by 109%. Motorists assists also increased by 38%, many of which were calls for service. The use of leave [annual, comp and sick] increased by over 81% and training increased by over 85%. Hazardous moving violations decreased by 34 fewer violations or 13.8% as did occupant restraint violations by 40.7% when compared to November. However, these two areas had significant increases as compared to December 2002. DUI arrests prior to crashes declined by 4 as did DUI arrests from crashes, which declined by 50%. The average BAC from arrests prior to crashes was .214 with only one result returned.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

## STAFFING AND WORK HOURS

STAFFING	Authorized positions		Current positions staffed		Percentage of authorized	
	December-03	December-02	December-03	December-02	December-03	December-02
Traffic [Tpr. & Sgt.]	66	69	52	52	78.8%	75.4%
Commercial [Tpr. & Sgt.]	16	16	13	15	81.3%	93.8%
Commercial CVSI	2	2	2	2	100.0%	100.0%
WORK HOURS LOST	December-03		December-02	% Change	November-03	% Change
Annual leave	1348.50		1094	23.3%	653.00	106.5%
Compensatory leave	314.80		802.25	-60.8%	271.00	16.2%
Sick Leave [personal and family]	543.90		610.4	-10.9%	294.75	84.5%
Military leave	0.00		168	-16800.0%	0.00	0.0%
Holiday off	136.00		236	-42.4%	344.00	-60.5%
Training	931.50		708.1	31.5%	502.08	85.5%
Administrative leave	352.00		0	35200.0%	272.00	29.4%
Leave without pay	0.00		0	0.0%	0.00	0.0%
Vacancy [173 hours per position*]	2941.00		2941	0.0%	2941.00	0.0%
<b>Total work hours lost</b>	6567.70		6559.75	0.1%	5277.83	24.4%
OVERTIME	December-03		December-02	% Change	November-03	% Change
Paid overtime claimed	1191.92		1333	-10.6%	1582.67	-24.7%
Compensatory overtime claimed	134.58		193.3	-30.4%	138.58	-2.9%
<b>Total overtime hours</b>	1326.50		1526.3	-13.1%	1721.25	-22.9%
TOTAL HOURS WORKED	December-03		December-02	% Change	November-03	% Change
Number of authorized positions x 173 hours*	14532.00		15051	-3.4%	14532.00	0.0%
Work hours lost	6567.70		6559.75	0.1%	5277.83	24.4%
Overtime	1326.50		1526.3	-13.1%	1721.25	-22.9%
<b>Total hours worked</b>	9290.80		10017.55	-7.3%	10975.42	-15.3%

\* 173 hours based upon 2080 work hours per year divided by 12 months

**Contract Service overtime for December was 222.75 hours.**

## STAFFING AND WORK HOURS *Cont'd*

### NARRATIVE ANALYSIS

*[Narrative analysis to include trends or other applicable issues]*

The Central Command continues to operate with over a 20% vacancy rate.

During December, total work hours lost increased by 24.4% as compared to November. This was primarily due to an increase in leave used [annual, comp and sick] by over 81% and an increase in training by over 85%. Over half of the training time was for commercial personnel for the new Hours of Service and NCIC training.

Overtime decreased by almost 23%.

The total hours worked for December decreased by over 15% when compared to November. The less time worked contributed to the overall decrease in enforcement activity for both traffic and commercial operations.

## RATIOS – ACCIDENT AND ENFORCEMENT

### ACCIDENT RATIOS

	December-03	November-03
Ratio of crashes per Traffic position		
Total	2.8	2.6
Property	1.9	2.0
Injury	0.8	0.5
Fatal	0.1	0.0
DUI	0.1	0.1
Commercial vehicle	0.3	0.4
Ratio of deaths per fatal crash	1.8	1.0
without seatbelts	1.0	0.5
with seatbelts	0.8	0.5

### FIELD ENFORCEMENT

Ratio of enforcement per Traffic position		
DUI arrests from crashes	0.1	0.1
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes	0.2	0.3
Other Arrests	0.8	1.7
Total persons arrested (DUI included)	0.5	1.1
Speed violations	23.3	30.4
Hazardous moving violations	4.1	4.7
Occupant restraint violations	2.9	4.9
Total violations	40.1	54.3

## RATIOS – ACCIDENT AND ENFORCEMENT *Cont'd*

### INSPECTION / ENFORCEMENT RATIOS

December-03

November-03

Ratio of inspections and enforcement per Commercial position

Hazardous moving violations - citations	0.8	2.7
Other traffic violations - citations	0.5	0.9
Total safety inspections [all levels]	30.7	44.7
Terminal inspections TIP	0.0	0.0
Total safety violations -- citation *	6.8	8.1
Average safety violations per inspection -- citation	0.2	0.2
Total safety violations -- repair order	45.0	70.6
Average safety violations per inspection -- repair order	1.5	1.6
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"	2.0	3.4
Average vehicles placed OOS per inspection	0.0	0.0
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"	1.7	1.9
Average drivers placed OOS per inspection	0.0	0.0
Total school buses inspected	3.5	3.1
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"	1.0	0.7
Total trucks weighed *	0.3	18.0
Total overweight citations *	0.0	0.1
Total dyed fuel inspections *	33.1	49.0
Total dyed fuel citations *	0.0	0.0

\* Commercial sworn only

### NARRATIVE ANALYSIS

*[Narrative analysis to include trends or other applicable issues]*

There was an increase in the number of crashes investigated which was primarily due to the 109% increase in the percentage of weather related crashes as compared to the monthly total crashes. Average enforcement declined by 14 violations per person as a result of winter weather conditions as detailed above.

Commercial personnel performed 14 fewer safety inspections. However, this was due to the amount of lost work hours primarily to training. The average time when considering the total hours worked to the number of inspections performed remained constant for the year and was slightly better than November. The fewer number of inspections resulted in fewer violations discovered. Vehicles weighed and vehicles checked for dyed fuel declined and these areas are being addressed by supervisors.

## ***ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES***

The training calendar for 2004 has been completed. Tentatively, all required training should be completed by October.

A total of 293 warrants were entered into NCJIS with 89 cleared. There were 1,508 warrants validated.

The evidence vaults processed 177 new items while disposing of 191 items. The majority of new items were from NHP, 58%.

Data entry of the new citations continues to be an issue. Citations are being entered into the new data base; however, problems have arisen. Most of these have been resolved, but the speed of the system continues to be an issue. This has caused delays in entering citations into the system. During December 2606 citations were entered.

## ***COMMUNICATION CENTER***

PSD I King is progressing well in her training. She has begun to now work the radio console. PSD I Sullivan is also progressing well.

Overtime accrued in December decreased by almost 17% when compared to November. Of the 188 hours of overtime, 40 hours was due to "Holidays Worked." The overtime for December was 11% less than the amount of overtime during December 2002.

Radio transmissions during December decreased by 9%. There were 65,246 transmissions in December as compared to 71,765 in November.

## ***PERSONNEL***

PSD III Jean Moots retired on December 15<sup>th</sup>. She worked for 19 ½ years.

PSD IV Elizabeth Bogue received her 30 years of service certificate.

Captain Tom Johnson received his 25 years of service certificate.

Sergeant Jim Stewart took a voluntary demotion to Trooper effective January 5, 2004.

## ***PUBLIC INFORMATION***

On December 4<sup>th</sup>, the mobile breath testing vehicle was utilized for a public relations and educational program for the new .08 BAC. The program was done at the Dos Amigos restaurant in Elko. Persons volunteered to track the number of drinks consumed and submitted to field sobriety and breath tests. A total of 30 persons participated.

On December 5<sup>th</sup> a DUI presentation was made at Cactus Pete's hotel/casino in Jackpot for US Navy recruits. Approximately 60 persons attended.

December 8<sup>th</sup> thru 13<sup>th</sup> the Shop with a Cop program was accomplished. This included fundraisers and the actual event. 103 children were escorted with 103 police officers at the Elko K-Mart. Each child was given \$150 to spend.

On December 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> driver education programs were completed at the Spring Creek and Elko High Schools with approximately 150 students attending.

## ***PROJECTS / ACTION PLANS***

10<sup>th</sup> Annual "Shop with a Cop" was held in Elko on December 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **Command SOP Manual**

The revision of the Central Command SOP manual has been completed in draft form. The final review was completed with recommended changes being made. These are in for final typing and compiling of the manuals for supervisors.

### **Budget FY06/07**

Work continues and equipment requests are being finalized for the next biennium.

### **RADAR Trailer**

The RADAR Trailer was deployed for 35.25 hours. It was primarily deployed in the Ely area. The trailer was deployed four times. The deployment was limited to the extreme inclement weather within the District. The winter storms required that the trailer not be on the shoulder so that it would inhibit snow removal.



## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Cowboy Poetry gathering in Elko is scheduled for January 24 – 31.

## **FIELD ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY**

### **NARRATIVE ANALYSIS continued**

Commercial activity also declined in December as compared to November. Inspections decreased by over 31%. This, in turn, resulted in fewer violations found and fewer vehicles and drivers placed out of service. The decrease in inspection time is attributed to increased training time, assistance to traffic operations during winter storms and an increase in leave taken. For the total available work hours for commercial, 1852.4 hours, the average number of hours worked per inspection was 4 hours. This is consistent throughout the year and was slightly better than November, 671 inspections with 2846.1 total hours worked.

The platform scales are still inoperable and awaiting repair and return to Elko. This resulted in a drastic decrease in vehicles weighed as did the winter storms. The use of portable scales was insufficient for the month and is being addressed by the supervisors. Dyed fuel inspections decreased but were significantly higher than December 2002. A total of 140 hours was spent on secondary roadways in dyed fuel enforcement with 47 vehicles checked. This area also needs improvement for the number of checks for the number of hours put forth and is being addressed by supervisors.

During the holiday travel season, the Command worked with NDOT to place sign boards along I-80 with messages to remind people to “buckle up.” This was also done in December 2002. In looking at seat belt enforcement numbers for December 2002 and 2003 and comparing these to January through November 2003, there is a marked difference in enforcement in December months as compared to the remainder of the year. During December 2002, 135 occupant restraint citations were issued. During December 2003, 150 citations were issued. During the months from January to November an average of 246 occupant restraint citations per month were issued. With the two months of posting the sign boards, these appear to have a positive impact on the use of occupant restraints.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Nevada Highway Patrol Central Command**

3920 E. Idaho St.  
Elko, NV 89801

PHONE:  
(775) 753-1111

FAX:  
(775) 753-1296

[http://dps.nv.gov/NHP/  
CC\\_Contact\\_Us.htm](http://dps.nv.gov/NHP/CC_Contact_Us.htm)